

Application No.: 09/894,704
Amendment Dated: October 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: July 16, 2004

MAT-8158US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 40, 41, 50 and 52-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al. In addition, claims 40, 41, 50 and 52-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over Yoshida for the reasons set forth.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 40, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a main body positioned behind a back of a bather, the main body having a front cover with a concave shape, said concave shape extending vertically along said main body.

This is illustrated in Applicants' Figure 10. As shown in Figure 10, the vertical outline of the curved shape of the main body is vertically oriented. This is done to facilitate extension and contraction of pipe 64A/64B into the main body.

As this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, claim 40 is patentable over the art of record.

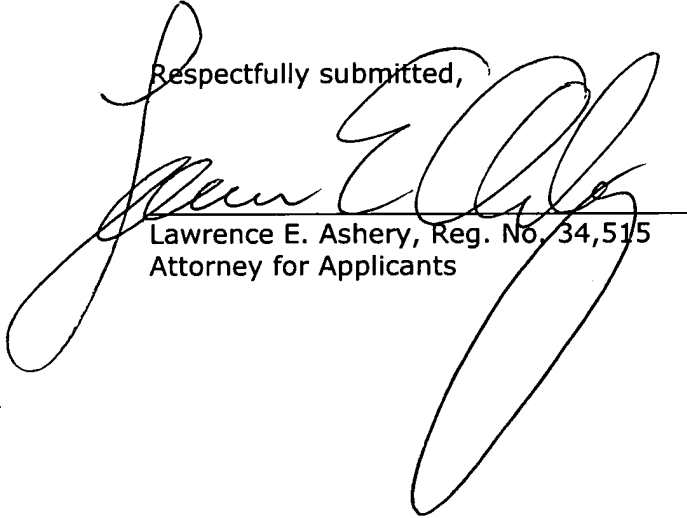
The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claim 40.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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